

# **BOARD OF AGRICULTURE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION MINUTES**

**July 16, 2013**

The Board of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection met on July 16, 2013, at the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, 2811 Agriculture Drive, Board Room, Madison, WI. The meeting was preceded by public notice as required by s. 19.84, Stats.

## **Call to Order**

Board Chair Andy Diercks called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

## **Members Present**

Michael Dummer, Andy Diercks, Mark Schleitwiler, John Koepke, Dennis Badtke, Dean Strauss and Nicole Hansen were present. Richard Cates and Miranda Leis were absent.

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Board Chair Andy Diercks welcomed new board member Nicole Hansen to the board and mentioned that the thoughts and prayers of the board go out to Dick Cates and his family in the recent loss of his mother.

Nicole Hansen joins the board from Necedah and manages 850 acres of cranberries, the largest contiguous cranberry operation in the area. She grew up on a dairy farm and has had experience in grooming dogs and many other agriculture related activities. She indicated that she was happy to be on the board and excited for the opportunity.

## **Minutes**

### **Motion**

Mike Dummer made a motion to approve the May 14, 2013 Board minutes. Seconded by Dean Strauss. Motion approved unanimously.

## **Public Appearances**

**Jerry Deschane** of the Wisconsin Builders Association came before the board in support of the ATCP 110 and 111 rule. He represents people who build and remodel homes in Wisconsin and felt that this is good rule for builders and it makes things easier to understand for consumers,

making it a good consumer protection rule as well. He recommended that the board approve the hearing draft and allowing the Agency to move ahead with public hearings.

**Scott Karel** representing the Wisconsin Farmers Union spoke in favor of the scope statement relating to egg handling and sales that was before the board that day. The recommended changes to the rule would make egg sales easier for small enterprises and would bring the state in line with neighboring state rules regarding egg sales within the farmer's market.

**ATCP 17, 21, 53, 60, 70, 80 Technical Changes (Hearing Draft)**  
**Livestock Premises Registration, Plant Inspection and Pest Control, Agricultural**  
**Enterprise Areas, Dairy Farms, Food Processing Plants, Dairy Plants**

David Meany, Chief Legal Counsel from the Office of the Secretary, presented a hearing draft containing technical rule changes to ATCP 17, 21, 53, 60, 70 and 80 to the Board. The majority of these changes clarify or modify definitions within ATCP 17, Livestock Premises Registration, ATCP 60, Dairy Farms, ATCP 70, Food Processing Plants, and ATCP 80 Dairy Plants. Within ATCP 21, Plant Inspection and Pest Control, the proposed rule is amended to include other states, such as North Carolina, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania that have quarantined counties based on a detection of TCD (Thousand Cankers Disease). This rule also repeals ch. ATCP 53 in its entirety as 2011 Wis. Act 253 s. 91.84 authorizes the department's secretary to designate AEA's, agricultural enterprise areas, by publication of a special order versus the previous standard of creating an emergency rule.

**Motion**

Michael Dummer made a motion to approve the technical changes hearing draft for ATCP 17, 21, 53, 60, 70 and 80. This was seconded by John Koepke. Motion approved unanimously.

**ATCP 10, 12 Animal Disease and Movement; Animal Markets, Dealers and Truckers**  
**(Hearing Draft)**

Melissa Mace, Bureau Director of the Field Services Bureau, and Dr. Darlene Konkle, Assistant State Veterinarian, of the Division of Animal Health presented the hearing draft for ATCP 10, Animal Disease and Movement and ATCP 12, Animal Markets, Dealers and Truckers. This rule allows the state to have consistent, non-conflicting requirements that match the federal rules in regards to moving livestock interstate and modifies provisions relating to documentation required for horses and the official individual identification of certain animals to align with federal traceability rules. This rule also modifies provisions relating to the chronic wasting disease (CWD) herd status program to align with United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) rules that establish a Herd Certification Program (HCP) for CWD in farm-raised or captive cervids in the United States.

## **Motion**

Michael Dummer made a motion to approve the hearing draft rule of ATCP 10 and 12. This was seconded by John Koepke. Motion approved unanimously.

## **Division of Animal Health Report**

Dr. Darlene Konkle, Assistant State Veterinarian, of the Division of Animal Health provided an update on the Division. The Division's federal partner, USDA APHIS Veterinary Services, is undergoing a large reorganization. They are currently geographically-aligned but will also now be functionally reorganized into four separate areas. The Surveillance, Preparedness and Response Division is one of the areas the Division will work closely with and will be organized by geographical districts. The counterpart assistant district director, Dr. Mike Stein, will be located in Minneapolis, which will be a little farther away than currently but services, interaction, and disease programs are all expected to remain the same. One of the other areas is the National Import and Export Division. They will have a hub right in Madison that will help streamline processes.

There is a new emerging disease in the US that the Division is keeping an eye on. Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea originated in Asia but has been found within 15 states in the US, with the most cases being found in Minnesota and Iowa. The disease is not considered a foreign animal disease or a concern for international markets at this point. Wisconsin does not have any documented cases at this time but the Division is keeping close tabs and is curious to learn how the disease got into the US initially.

Fair season is upon Wisconsin and with it, the Division has been working with the Division of Public Health and Ag Extension regarding H3N2. Last summer, there were 300 reported cases in the eastern half of the US with people becoming sick from the influenza, which is transmissible from swine to people and vice versa, causing mild illness. The Division participated with Public Health to put out an informational webinar in June to public health partners and an informational letter was sent to fair vets and organizers detailing good biosecurity practices and hygiene at the fairs. This year, Indiana has had roughly a dozen cases reported so far with no cases reported in Wisconsin at this point.

## **ATCP 88, 70, 71, 75 (Scope Statement)**

### **Egg Grading, Handling, Labeling; Food Processing Plants; Food Warehouses; Retail Food Establishments**

Steve Ingham, Division Administrator, and Pete Haase, Bureau Director of Food Safety and Inspection, for the Division of Food Safety presented the scope statement for ATCP 88, 70, 71, and 75. This rule aims to remove inconsistencies within the current rule while adding clarification about licensing and inspection requirements for shell eggs, particularly from people who wish to sell eggs at their farm or farmer's market. The proposed rule would assist those

people who seek to sell a small number of shell eggs, as well as those who operate larger egg production businesses, by clarifying licensing and inspection requirements, as well as safety and sanitation requirements applying to the collection, cleaning, grading, packaging and distribution of eggs.

#### **Motion**

Mike Dummer made a motion to approve the Scope Statement of ATCP 88, 70, 71, and 75. This was seconded by Dennis Badtke. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **ATCP 82 Milk Haulers (Scope Statement)**

Steve Ingham, Division Administrator, and Pete Haase, Bureau Director of Food Safety and Inspection, for the Division of Food Safety presented the scope statement for ATCP 82 Milk Haulers. The proposed scope statement recommends adopting a provision of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) allowing milk haulers to make partial collections of milk from bulk tanks on dairy farms under certain conditions. Currently, ATCP 82 requires bulk milk tanks to be emptied each time milk is collected which milk hauling companies report is causing them problems with meeting road weight-limit regulations and preventing them from managing their milk hauling practices most efficiently.

The department also proposes to make other changes to ATCP 82 dealing with an exemption of Wisconsin license requirement for trucks holding a Grade "A" permit from another state, exemption of tanker Grade "A" permit requirements for employees of an already permit-holding bulk milk tanker owner, bulk milk weigher sampler license renewal requirements, re-inspection of bulk milk weigher samplers, washing and sanitizing of bulk milk tankers and associated hoses and pumps, thermometer calibration, rinsing of bulk tank volume measurement rods, supplies required for milk collection and sampling, and sealing of the bulk milk tanker access port.

#### **Motion**

Mike Dummer made a motion to approve the Scope Statement of ATCP 82. This was seconded by Dean Strauss. Motion approved unanimously.

#### **ATCP 82 Milk Haulers- Emergency Rule (Scope Statement)**

Steve Ingham, Division Administrator, and Pete Haase, Bureau Director of Food Safety and Inspection, for the Division of Food Safety presented the emergency rule scope statement for ATCP 82 Milk Haulers. The proposed emergency rule scope statement recommends adopting a provision of the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) allowing Milk haulers to make partial collections of milk from bulk tanks on dairy farms under certain conditions. Currently, ATCP 82 requires bulk milk tanks to be emptied each time milk is collected which Milk hauling companies report is causing them problems with meeting road

weight-limit regulations and preventing them from managing their milk hauling practices most efficiently.

By proposing an emergency rule, the Agency would be able to take more immediate action than progressing through a normal rulemaking procedure. Emergency rules generally go into effect with 30 days and are initially approved for 150 days but may be extended one more time.

### **Motion**

The Board of ATCP deliberated on the emergency rule scope statement for ATCP 82 and took no action.

### **ATCP 110, 111 Home Improvement Practices; Basement Waterproofing Practices (Hearing Draft)**

Michelle Reinen, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, and Kevin LeRoy, Program and Policy Analyst, in the Division of Trade & Consumer Protection presented the Hearing Draft of ATCP 110 and 111 relating to Home Improvement Practices and Basement Waterproofing Practices.

ATCP 110 currently regulates home improvement practices and under the proposed rule it would no longer apply to very large home improvements where the value of the project is more than 100% of the assessed value of the property. The proposed rule would also allow ATCP 110 to regulate Basement Waterproof Practices which were previously regulated within ATCP 111.

Under this new proposed rule the seller or home improvement contractor may provide written manufacturer's warranties at the completion of the project versus the current practice of providing the warranties when the seller enters into the contract or the product is installed. Also, currently a seller is required to provide the buyer with lien waivers before accepting final payment, however, the proposed rule allows the seller to forego providing partial lien waivers before accepting partial payments as long as the seller takes steps to educate the buyer about lien waivers and the buyer provides written consent to foregoing the partial waivers.

Currently, ATCP 110 provides that a liquidated damages provision within a home improvement contract for breach of the contract by the buyer may not exceed 10% of the contract price or \$100, whichever is less. Under the new proposed rule, this has been modified to repeal the \$100 maximum while keeping the 10% limit.

This proposed rule upholds the current guidelines that a seller must give timely notice of any impending delay in contract performance. However, the proposed rule also indicates that if the seller can show the delay was caused by the buyer, the seller is not legally responsible for the delay. Also for home improvement contractors to deviate from a written home improvement contract to substitute products or materials, the following limited conditions must be met:

- The buyer verbally agrees to the deviation.

- The seller maintains documentation of the deviation, and that the buyer agrees to the deviation.
- The deviation does not represent any additional cost to the buyer.
- The deviation does not represent a decrease in the value of the finished product.

The proposed rule also allows home improvement contractors to start on their overall project before obtaining all building permits if the entire project consists of multiple subprojects.

### **Motion**

Dennis Badtke made a motion to approve the Hearing Draft Rule of ATCP 110 and 111. This was seconded by Mike Dummer. Motion approved unanimously.

### **ATCP 125 Mobile Home Parks (Final Draft)**

Michelle Reinen, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, in Division of Trade & Consumer Protection presented the Final Draft of ATCP 125 Mobile Home Parks Rule.

ATCP 125 was first promulgated in 1972 to address unfair trade practices and methods of competition that emerged in the industry and it prohibited mobile home park operators from using unfair or deceptive trade practices.

The final draft rule adds several definitions and defines terms such as: "manufactured home," "manufactured home community," "electronic communication system," "utility service," and "municipal permit fee."

It also expands the list of provisions that may be increased during the term of a rental agreement to include: "mobile home parking fees," charges for utility services, waste hauling or recycling fees.

Lastly, the proposed rule also allows for a rental agreement that is three years or longer to express the amount of rent due in each rent paying period, to be either listed in a dollar amount or a defined formula based on the consumer price index. Also, this rule modifies the current limit of a \$350 security deposit or three months rent to \$750 or two months rent, whichever is less.

The Board previously approved the hearing draft of this rule in February of this year and subsequently the Agency held 2 public hearings, one held in Wausau on April 30<sup>th</sup> and the other on May 1<sup>st</sup> in Madison, with a written comment period open through May 15<sup>th</sup>. A total of 2 people attended the Madison hearing and both supported the proposed rule. There were no written comments and no attendees at the Wausau hearing. The Department modified the final draft rule slightly to incorporate several changes based on minor organizational and technical changes suggested by the Rules Clearinghouse.

## **Motion**

Dennis Badtke made a motion to approve the Final Draft Rule of ATCP 125. This was seconded by Nicole Hansen. Motion approved unanimously.

## **Consumer Protection Bureau Report**

Sandy Chalmers, Division Administrator, and Michelle Reinen, Director of the Bureau of Consumer Protection, in Division of Trade & Consumer Protection provided an update on the Consumer Protection Bureau. They discussed several recent judgments against companies violating the No Call List, which contains roughly 20 million consumer phone numbers, currently making it one of the more popular laws with the public. Other recent enforcement actions included: weights and measure violations, telemarketing timeshare fraud scams, home improvement code violations, prize notice law scams, and cases that were referred to the Department of Justice and the Department of Financial Institutions.

Sandy also gave an update on the budget item that transferred the Petroleum Inspection and Tank Regulation Program from the Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS), which originated from a trip to Minnesota where DSPS Secretary Ross saw that the weights and measure inspectors were also the petroleum inspectors, thus spurring the idea to try to combine the two here in Wisconsin.

The Trade and Consumer Protection Division is the second largest division within the Agency with slightly over 150 FTE. With the transfer of the DSPS staff, the weights and measures section, which was previously a part of the consumer protection bureau, will now be its own bureau. Combined with the staff gained through the DSPS transfer, the new bureau will have roughly 59.8 FTE. The new bureau will have two sections; field operations run by Judy Cardin and the licensing and permit section overseen by Sheldon Schall. DATCP will now issue permits for above ground and underground storage tanks, flammable and combustible liquids like petroleum, and maintain a database for underground and above ground storage tanks accessible to the public. They will also review all design plans for the creation of storage tanks and for the storage and dispensing of combustible products. The bureau will also credential the people who work on the storage tanks, including inspectors and conduct inspections and test petroleum products.

DATCP is anticipating finding efficiencies first within the transfer itself. DSPS used to operate with 44.5 FTE but only 36 FTE were transferred in the budget thus saving an anticipated 600,000 a year in salaries. By combining and cross training the current weights and measures staff and the DSPS petroleum system inspectors, DATCP anticipates eliminating roughly 1500 duplicative inspection trips a year. DATCP also plans to close the 9 regional labs and one office that DSPS previously operated and will combine these labs with the current Weights and Measure Metrology Lab, thus saving on rent. There is a one-time projected cost of \$900,000 in order to fit all the petroleum system inspectors with laptops and smartphones which they previously did not use.

Looking forward, the Division plans to begin cross-training the current weights and measure staff with the petroleum systems inspection staff within two years and will also cross-train the chemists in the Weights and Measure Metrology Lab and the licensing and permit staff as well.

### **Wisconsin Agricultural Statistics Services (WASS) Report**

Greg Bussler, State Statistician, updated the Board on the following:

- June Acreage Report released. As of June 1st, Wisconsin Farmers indicated they intend to plant or harvest:
  - 4.2 million acres of corn
  - 2.25 million acres of grain
  - 1.6 million acres of soybean
  - 1.28 million acres of hay
- US Farmers as a whole indicated they intend to plant or harvest:
  - 97.4 million acres of corn
  - 89.1 million acres of grain
  - 77.7 million acres of soybean
- Production Report
  - In May, 2.37 billion pounds of milk were produced in Wisconsin.
  - Milk production in 23 major states totaled 16.5 billion pounds.
  - As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, Wisconsin had 10,803 milk cow herds, down 679 herds since July 2012.
  - Maple syrup production at 265,000 gallons, highest production in NASS records since 1992. WI ranked 4<sup>th</sup> for gallons produced.
- Price Report:
  - June price of \$20.40 per hundredweight of milk
  - Corn sold for \$6.80 per bushel
  - Soybeans sold for \$14.80 per bushel
  - Alfalfa hay sold for \$275 per ton up \$140 per ton since last June
- Crop Progress Report/Concerns:
  - Corn is 44% good with corn growing days ahead of normal
  - Soybeans are 48% good with 13% bloomed so far
  - First cutting of hay at 97%, second cutting at 34%
  - Top soil moisture 75% adequate
  - Some concerns of rain needed
- August Crop Production Report
  - Will be released Monday, Aug 12<sup>th</sup>
  - First forecast of season for corn and soybean yields.
  - NASS re-interviewing soybean farmers in 14 states to update planted acreage numbers.



### **Wisconsin Dairy Production & Processing (Report)**

Laura Paine, Marty Grosse, and Norm Monsen from the Division of Agricultural Development presented a PowerPoint outlining their services, which include staff that work with the dairy sector, both programmatically and in response to clientele requests, as part of their mission to help grow Wisconsin's diverse agricultural economy.

The services are focused to provide farmers, agribusiness and organizations with technical and financial assistance and related services to improve profitability, production, quality of life and access to new markets. Individual clientele questions and needs are addressed by Farm Center staff, sector development staff, and both domestic marketing (Local and Regional Foods and Market Orders) and International Trade team staff.

The Division works with a diverse array of clients from individual farmers and startup farmstead processors, to large processors and dairy input and equipment supplies. All sizes and types of dairy farms in the state are served with the purpose of providing support for each individual farmer or processor to foster their business goals into the next generation of operators.

### **Agricultural Chemical Management Bureau (Report)**

Lori Bowman, Bureau Director and Mike Murray, Pesticide Program Specialist, within the Division of Agricultural Resource Management presented a video and PowerPoint detailing the bureau's regulatory and program authority.

The Agricultural Chemical Management Bureau utilizes 42 full time staff to operate 13 different program areas focused primarily on pesticides, fertilizers, and animal feed. The Bureau is primarily regulatory, administering 9 different administrative codes within their program areas. The oldest law in the state is actually the Fertilizer Law which the Bureau regulates. The staff have a wide range of specialties and backgrounds from licensing specialists to enforcement specialists, hydro geologists, biologists and feed nutritionists.

The Bureau also manages the states Clean Sweep Program. This is a program that provides grants to communities and local government to assist in the disposal of agriculture waste, such as pesticides and fertilizers, and house hold waste, such as unwanted prescription drugs.

Roughly 14,000 licenses are administered within the bureau. They often work closely with the FDA, EPA, DNR, Department of Health Services, and many other state partners.

### **2013 Agricultural Enterprise Areas (Report)**

Coreen Fallat, Program Manager for the Agricultural Enterprise Areas Program, presented four AEA petitions submitted during the 2013 petition cycle of which, three new AEA's are being recommended with the modification of an existing AEA to take effect January 1, 2014.

To be designated as an AEA, a department order must come from our Agency and notification of the order must be posted in the state newspaper. Two of the four recommended AEA's are currently in the process of updating or amending their farmland preservation plan to ensure eligibility with program requirements.

The recommended AEA's are as follows:

- Fields, Waters and Woods, Ashfield and Bayfield Counties
- SouthWest Lead Mine Region, LaFayette County
- Town of Grant, Dunn and Chippewa Counties
- Heart of America's Dairyland, Clark and Marathon Counties (Modification of existing AEA)

Following designation, there will be 25 AEA's in the state totaling nearly 750,000 acres, located in 19 counties, 72 towns and the Bad River Reservation. The state currently has authority to designate up to 1 million acres as AEA's. It is the Agency's goal to designate the remaining 250,000 acres in the 2014 petition cycle.

### **Board Member Reports**

**Mark Schleitwiler-** On the work front, construction slowed on the Fond du Lac and Outagamie plants due to a fair amount of rain but at least one will be open and operating by the end of the year. BelGioioso is seeing some financial stress on the milk front. More farmers are retiring or farms lost in general with a decrease in milk per cow making it less efficient in the plants with lower yields. On the positive side, there is still a good supply left with plenty of demand to satisfy their customers. On a personal note, Mark has cut back his ours at BelGioioso to begin to move into retirement and pursue other endeavors in the future.

**Nicole Hansen-** Spring started out two weeks behind for the cranberries but with the warm weather and initial rains, they have caught up a week, are looking great and moving into fruit set. It is a pleasant sight to see versus last year with the drought that really impacted growers. Further north is still a little farther behind as they were under ice for much longer. Nicole has nearly 200 million honey bees that will be leaving in the next week or so to begin pollinating. She is looking forward to August 14<sup>th</sup> which is the Wisconsin Growers Summer Field Day in Pittsville, where everyone is welcome.

**John Koepke-** John thanked everyone for excusing him at the last meeting as he was busy on the farm using his pesticide applicator license and planting corn and soybeans. Things are looking good in his area even with the corn planting initially running a week behind. Second crop hay is

done with third cutting of alfalfa coming up. Things are pretty variable throughout the state with the North getting too wet and more southern Wisconsin due for rain soon. Last year, the talk was of shortages of forage for horses and other animals. Unfortunately, that concern might not be totally alleviated yet as we are still seeing a lot of ruined horse hay.

**Dean Strauss-** At our last meeting, most of the board members were worried about their crops and Dean moved his corn planting from May 16<sup>th</sup> to July 5<sup>th</sup>. However, nature sometimes has a way of correcting itself and the corn that is in the ground currently might be the best yet. A lesson to not worry too much about the future or the timing of frost etc. Things are going good on the home front otherwise.

**Dennis Badtke-** Over the past year, Badgerland Financial performed a land study of the southern 32 counties for the prices of farm land in which buyers and sellers of land were interviewed and previous sales were compared. Contrary to other industry reports indicating that agricultural values were in decline, the study showed that farmland prices actually increased between 8% to 19% in some areas. Values for recreational land remained the same. Otherwise, Badgerland reports that there is still plenty of money to lend and within the last 45 days, they are seeing basis point rates of 70 up to 100.

**Mike Dummer-** Central Wisconsin is looking better this time than it did last meeting. There were several good heat degree days, enough so that now a little rain would help. Half of the second cut hay is up with the other half lying down and ready to go up. Immediately north by Hwy 29 is doing a lot rougher though. There is a lot of winter kill, shortage of forages, and late corn planting. Folks in that area will be focusing on feeding their cattle and not selling grain.

**Andy Diercks-** Andy welcomed Nicole Hansen to the board again. The potato planting went in late but has been catching up with the recent warm weather. Andy is nervous for the weather to stay too warm as the quality of the potatoes will soon be affected with too much heat. He has been irrigating though for two weeks now. Potato market looks really good as there is not much product available right now.

### **Secretary's Report**

Secretary Ben Brancel handed out and highlighted an article from "The Bullvine", which is generated out of Canada, as they chose to focus on the newly appointed Kristin Olson as the Alice in Dairyland. The article was a nice tribute to her and the program.

At this time, the Department is still monitoring the Farm Bill. The Department was more focused on program areas that impacted our department operations than it was on commodity pricing, benefits from commodities and organization structures or delivery systems. In the House and Senate versions, the Farm Bill allows the department to manage its resources and deliver services. Money was still allocated to the Market Access Program, which are monies used toward international trade activities. There was an attempt to reduce these dollars which subsequently failed so the Agency still has the flexibility in the types of programs and activities

that the department offers to other business, companies, and organizations in international trade. Invasive species had an increase in their dollar funding as it was recognized that the bugs can travel long distances and need to be controlled or they can cause havoc in the agriculture economy. The Specialty Crop Grant Program, which are funds set aside for research and marketing efforts for crops such as cranberries and potatoes that are not big commodity crops like rice, cotton, corn and soybeans, was funded well.

The Wisconsin state budget was good to the agency with no major cuts or reductions. The restructuring of Agricultural Chemical Cleanup Program to ensure that the funds within that program are utilized correctly didn't go as far as the agency would have liked but it does bring them closer to making that happen. The budget ordered the movement of the Petroleum and Tank Inspection Program from DPS to DATCP, which has already begun. Cross-training is the key that will allow them to be more efficient while still providing quality service. There was another provision in the budget regarding a study to be done about consolidating DSPS as a whole with DATCP. This study will need to be completed and sent to the Legislature by January 1, 2014. DATCP has already begun identifying topics that will need to be addressed and areas of potential efficiencies. Also highlighted in the budget is a program that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) operates that will bring elk within the state. The DNR anticipates generating monies through hunting permit and license fees but DATCP is responsible for protecting a 35 billion animal agriculture industry so caution needs to be used to ensure that these elk do not bring disease with them that could have a very negative and unanticipated effect on the animal agriculture industry.

Other budget items not directly related to the agency but of interest are the Babcock Hall and Center for Dairy Research renovation and the creation of the Meat Science and Muscle Biology Laboratory. The Meat Science and Muscle Biology Laboratory has been asked for by meat processors here in the state, of which there are roughly 289 state inspected locations and 111 federally inspected plants in the state. The new laboratory allows us to train managers and employees while providing an opportunity to enhance products derived from our meat industry. Beyond food items, the lab can also explore unique components of human health. Another interesting budget item is the Alliant Energy Center upgrades that would enhance the World Dairy Expo experience for those bringing in livestock, and to guests and visitors. There are rumblings from other national organizations that if the upgrades are made, Wisconsin will be a viable option for future national shows.

UW Extension has a Farmer to Farmer website where farmers with extra bales and feed commodities can get connected with those farms that desperately need those resources. While the forage quality may not be the greatest, the quantity can make a big difference.

Farm Technology Days has been getting positive and rave reviews. The Department had 5 booths on the grounds in the progress pavilion, the conservation pavilion, the beef tent, the family living pavilion and had a booth set up specifically for the Dairy 20x30 initiative, to try to connect with as many people as possible. The Department is also getting ready for State Fair again this year. Last year was a very positive experience so the Agency is preparing to update the displays and make sure they are reaching out to the standard Milwaukee family that may not

know how the Agency impacts their lives, whether it be in pesticide work, food safety or fair business practices to name a few.

For the November Board meeting, the Agency plans on providing the board with a tour of the new lab that will be finished by that point. The new lab is state of the art and will finally match the quality and caliber of the Agency's staff. With completion of the lab, it is more than likely that the FDA will be able to utilize our services more consistently which will be a potential fund generator for the Agency.

### **Future Schedule and Agenda Items**

The Board is scheduled to meet on September 10<sup>th</sup> at a location to be determined. Board Chair Andy Diercks made a request to be provided a list of possible meeting dates for 2014 with a joint DNR board meeting to be held as well.

### **Adjournment**

By unanimous consent, the Board adjourned at approximately 2:37pm.

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Andy Diercks, Board Chair

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John Koepke, Secretary